

Benjamin Sturgis House
Fairfield, Connecticut

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Connecticut

Historic American Buildings Survey
Harold H. Davis, District Officer
29 Whitney Ave., New Haven, Conn.

BENJAMIN STURGIS HOUSE

Fairfield, Fairfield County, Conn.

Owner: Estate Bessie D. Hair, 984, Lindley St., Bridgeport.

Date of Erection: 1720

Architect or Builder: Joseph and Benjamin Sturgis

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two and one-half

Materials of Construction: Stone foundation
Shingled sidewalls and roof
Stone chimney

Other Existing Records: Manuscript History of Trubee-Knapp
House - Colonial Dames of America.

87 Old Houses of Fairfield, Conn., -
Tercenary.

List of Photographs:

1. Front Elevation
2. South Wall of N.W., Room - First Floor
3. North Wall of S.W., Room - First Floor
4. Entrance Hall Detail
5. Entrance Hall Detail
6. Entrance Detail

BENJAMIN STURGIS HOUSE
FAIRFIELD, FAIRFIELD COUNTY

It will be of interest to those lovers of old houses, who had occasion to travel the Post Road through Fairfield, and who have missed the picturesque salt-box type house which once stood on north side of this highway, to know that it has not been destroyed but removed in its original treatment to #13 Rowland Road. This task was done in 1920 by Mr. John R. Ramsey, himself an architect and thus appreciative of this fine old house.

This house is known as the Benjamin Sturgis House, but is very often referred to as the Trubee-Knapp House. The house, we believe, was built in 1720, although there is much debate on this score. The first mention of the house to be found is in the will of Joseph Sturgis, and this should place its building date at about 1720.

In 1812 the house was purchased by Mr. Samuel Trubee who was then newly married. He kept the homestead in the best repair and there is much mention of the annual coat of special white wash which Mr. Trubee so religiously applied.

One of Samuel Trubee's daughters married Captain William Knapp, and because he was a sea captain and away from home so much, his young wife continued to live at the family homestead where all of her children were born and lived on after. Thus the appellation of Trubee-Knapp was placed on the house.

Tradition has it that this dwelling stood through the burning of Fairfield. It is also told that during the War of 1812, the inhabitants of Fairfield, fearing a second attack by the British, took their valuable belongings and deposited them in a dry well at the rear of the Sturgis Homestead, and safely sealed it up with a hugh stone.

The house is now the property of the estate of Bessie D. Hair and is in such good condition as to prove that Mr. Trubee's white washing has paid its dividends. Many of the shingles are still original. The house has some handsome fireplaces and a beautiful corner cupboard. There is a very fine panelled staircase, the steps of which have unusually steep risers. The panelling although simple is very attractive.

Even now, on its new parcel of ground amid the modern residences of Rowland Road, this typical old house of the salt-box variety is just as picturesque as ever.

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Source of Information: Manuscript History of Trubee-Knapp
House - Colonial Dames of America.

87 Old Houses of Fairfield, Conn. -
Tercentenary.

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Approved:

Harold N. Davis Feb. 27 - 1939